

In order to provide speech coder and speech decoder where excellent sound qualities are obtained even at a low bit rate, a plural position-sets storing circuit 450 holds a plurality of sets for positions of pulses in the speech coder. In addition, an excitation quantization circuit 350 calculates distortions for speech signal by the use of every sets of the positions of pulses, and selects a set of positions with a minimized distortion. The judgement information representative of the selected set is delivered with a small number of bits.